

188-760  
FEDERAL COMPUTER WEEK  
61.000

36 TIMES/YEAR  
MARCH 29, 1993

## Bacon's

3481 **Brewster Kahle**  
*President*  
*WAIS Inc.*

▼  
Kahle is a pioneer in the use of massively parallel processing systems and sophisticated software to conduct text searches of databases — an application that could have a dramatic impact on the federal government, owner of the world's largest databases.

One of the founders of Thinking Machines Corp., the Cambridge, Mass.-based maker of MPP systems, Kahle began using MPP systems to do text searches in 1985. In 1989 Kahle started the Wide Area Information Servers project to create an electronic publishing system prototype with partners Dow Jones, Apple Computer and KPMG Peat Marwick.

Kahle later expanded the prototype, running a WAIS experiment on Internet

M

3481 CT

in 1991 and, with National Science Foundation funding, establishing a WAIS Center to develop public-domain text-searching software. The software indexes text for speedy searches even across physically distributed databases. It allows users to search multimedia databases using natural language queries. More than 5,000 people have used WAIS software in 20 countries. He now is president of his own company dedicated to the project.